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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

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1. Until November 1950 the Popular Union of Bulgarian Women (Bulgarski Naroden Zhenski Suyuz) was the only women's organization in Bulgaria. At that time, a national conference of the Union took place in Sofia, at which it was decided that there was no need for a separate union of women. This decision was made for the following reasons:
 - a. Bulgarian women had equal rights with men.
 - b. They participated on an equal footing with men in the political, economic, and cultural life of the country.
 - c. Bulgarian women were advanced enough to be capable of taking part in an organization together with men.
2. After it was decided that the Popular Union of Bulgarian Women had accomplished its task, the organization was incorporated into the Fatherland Front. But in order to justify the adherence of Bulgarian women to the Women's International Federation (WIDF) in Berlin, the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women (Komitet na Demokratichnite Bulgarski Zheni), whose principal task it was to maintain connections with foreign women's organizations, was created. This Committee planned International Women's Day on 8 March and International Children's Day, preparing all of the pamphlets needed for these activities, for the meetings of all executive committee of the WIDF in Berlin, and for international congresses in which the Committee of Democratic Women took part.
3. The work of the Women's Committee was directed by a section in the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The Chief of this Section was Madame Magda GUINOVA. Within each local or regional committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, there was one woman who was responsible for work among women.

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4. Before the Third Congress of the Fatherland Front, which took place in May 1952, one deputy responsible for work among women was attached to every local committee of the Fatherland Front. After the Congress, however, all women's activities were concentrated in the Bulgarian Communist Party. The work among women consisted of holding meetings and participating in various campaigns, for instance:
- a. Preparations for International Women's Day, 8 March.
 - b. Preparations and campaign for the International Children's Day.
 - c. Campaign and collection of gifts for the people of North Korea.
 - d. Collection of signatures for the conclusion of a peace pact by the five great powers according to the instructions of the World Peace Council. In this connection, it is interesting to note how the signatures were collected. At the time, I was working as translator and interpreter in the Bulgarian Cinematography State Enterprise (Dürzhavno Predpriatie Bulgarska Kinetografija). A meeting was held, at which selected speakers talked about the fight for peace and about the great international peace camp headed by the great Soviet Union. The speakers condemned the instigators of a new war, that is, the Anglo-American imperialists; they also spoke of dollars soaked in human blood and mouthed many other similar stupidities. After these talks and reports, one of the speakers said: "Now we are all going to sign the appeal for peace of the World Peace Council", and those present began to sign the appeal. It was not a matter of choice; we just had to sign.
5. Thus it is clear that the absorption of the Popular Union of Bulgarian Women by the Fatherland Front was aimed at centralizing all organizations which had even a semblance of independence under the dictatorship of the Bulgarian Communist Party.
5. The Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women was a fiction and a means of having all Bulgarian women participate in the WIDF in Berlin. The character of the WIDF is easy to understand when one knows that it participated in all international conferences and congresses whose general line was dictated by Moscow.
- Organization of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women
6. As of June 1953 the Committee had the following staff:
- a. Chairman: Madame Tsola DRAGOICHEVA, Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone, and member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. As chairman she was responsible for outlining and supervising the work of the Committee. She had the over-all responsibility for the activities of the Committee.
 - b. Secretary: Madame Tsvetana KIRANOVA, member of a commission in the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. She managed all administrative work for the Committee.
- 25X1C. Translator: [REDACTED] literature received from women's organizations abroad, such as information bulletins of the WIDF, letters of the WIDF, and all other materials coming from that organization, as well as material emanating from the Committee to be sent abroad. The translations were made from Russian and French into Bulgarian and vice versa.
- d. Typist: Madame Terese DIKOVA, who typed all the above material in Bulgarian, French, and Russian.

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7. The materials to be translated and typed consisted mainly of the information bulletin, which contained items about women's organizations of the Iron Curtain countries which belonged to the WIDF. In addition, telegrams were sent to certain governments, always one of the Western Powers, protesting against an act of that government. For example, a telegram was sent to Great Britain protesting against the condemnation of a young Malay woman who had been accused of terrorist activities and whom our telegrams represented as an innocent person, condemned without sufficient reason. Another telegram was sent decrying the sentence imposed upon the ROSENBERGS. A protest telegram was sent to the Spanish Government against the sentencing of striking workers in Barcelona. A telegram was sent to the Greek Government protesting against the condemnation of Nikos BELOIANIS and his accomplices. We protested to the US Government against its decision not to grant an entrance visa to the delegate of the WIDF to the Sixth Session of the Economic Council of the United Nations in April 1953. To the government of San Salvador, a protest telegram was sent against the arrest of some demonstrators. All of these telegrams began as follows: "The Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women, in its name and in the name of all the mothers and women of Bulgaria, energetically protests against" I mention this stereotyped introductory sentence only in order to show how these protests were made in the name of all Bulgarian women while the majority of these women did not even know that the telegrams had been sent.
8. The Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women had its offices at Patriarkh Eftimi No. 82. Its board of directors consisted of six persons:
- Chairman: Madame Tsola DRAGOICHEVA
 - Secretary: Madame Tsvetana KIRANOVA
 - Chief Editor of the publication, Zhenata Dnes (Today's Woman): Madame Rada TODOROVA.
 - One of the secretaries of the National Committee for the Defense of Peace in Bulgaria: Madame Ionka TATAROVA.
 - A member of the National Council of the Fatherland Front: Madame Nadia GANCHEVA.
 - Chief of the Section for Work Among Women in the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party: Madame Magda GUINOVA.
 - An associate member, deputy chief of the same section as Madame GUINOVA, Madame Anastassia VULKOVA.
9. The Board of Directors of the Committee met weekly to examine the letters and other materials received during the week from the WIDF. At this meeting, the secretary's activities during the preceding week were examined and approved and the next week's work was planned. The board also prepared plans for campaigns which were organized by the Committee or in which the Committee took part. It also selected delegates who were to participate in international conferences and approved the plans for pamphlets, slogans, posters, fliers, and the contents of all letters sent abroad.
10. The supreme organ of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women was the Plenum of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women. The Plenum was composed of about 50 women from all parts of the country. The Plenum and the Board of Directors were elected to their posts, for a four-year term, at the National Conference in November 1950. The Plenum met once a year. It approved the work and activities of the Committee during the preceding year and outlined the plan of activities for the next year. I must emphasize here that all these meetings of the Plenum and of the staff were only shams since there were really no basic organs in the country.

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11. The following is the manner in which delegations to international conferences were organized. The Board of Directors of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women selected the delegates, whereupon the secretary submitted the names of the delegates to the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, which passed on the selection. It had full power to replace any of the members proposed by the Committee. After the delegates were approved by the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women wrote a letter to the Council of Ministers informing it that, according to the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, the persons indicated in the letter had been appointed to represent Bulgaria, or rather Bulgarian women, at such and such an international conference. The Council of Ministers, in turn, on the basis of the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, gave permission for the issuance of the foreign currency necessary to cover the delegates' travel and living expenses abroad.
12. The Directorate of the People's Militia issued "service passports" according to the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. After these passports and the decision of the Council of Ministers were obtained, the whole matter was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose task it was to procure the necessary visas. When all these formalities were completed, members of the delegation deposited their personal passports (or identification documents) with the Directorate of the People's Militia and received their "service passports" provided with exit visas.
13. A similar state of affairs existed in the Soviet Union. The Anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet Women represented Soviet women at the WIDF in Berlin. The same was true of Czechoslovakia. There were almost 60,000,000 Soviet women, almost 2,000,000 Bulgarian women, several million Czechoslovak and Communist Chinese women -- that is, about 180,000,000 women represented in the WIDF in Berlin.
14. Following is biographical information concerning six women connected with the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women:

NAME: Elissaveta BAGRIANA
 TITLE OR RANK: Editor
 POSITION AND DUTIES: Member of the Editorial Board
 of the publication Septemvri,
 organ of the Union of Bulgarian Authors; Member of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women.
 PERSONAL HISTORY: Finished Bulgarian Gymnasium and, I believe, studied Bulgarian literature at the University of Sofia. For a while she was professor of Bulgarian literature; has been married twice; had a son from the first marriage; her second husband ALEXANDR LIKOV, was employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 EMPLOYMENT OR MILITARY RECORD: Unknown
 PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION: Not a member of the Communist Party.
 REMARKS: Madame BAGRIANA was one of the best-known and best-loved poetesses. Her poems composed before World War II show a very humane character and are most popular. Her lyric poetry and meditative poems are really a glory to her country. Madame BAGRIANA was also well-known abroad. After 9 September 1944, she was not very popular because the Communists objected to one of her poems about Bulgarian royalty; she later regained her reputation, especially as one of three co-authors of the new Bulgarian national anthem. She was sent on a visit to the Soviet Union and after her return she wrote an article on the Soviet people. Madame BAGRIANA was a member of the

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NAME: Elisaveta BAGRIANA (Cont'd)
REMARKS: Bulgarian delegation to the Second World Congress for the Defense of Peace, which was held in Warsaw. The young people of Bulgaria had great respect for Madame BAGRIANA as a poet before World War II but have since been disappointed in her. They do not approve of the bad example she has set for them by bowing to Communism and singing its praises. I have no detailed information about her character, since I know her mostly through her poetry.

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BASIS OF INFORMATION:Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women.
June 1953.

NAME: Terese DIKOVA, nee Terese Camillo VACARO
TITLE OR RANK: Typist
POSITION AND DUTIES: Typist for the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women.
PERSONAL HISTORY: Madame DIKOVA finished French College in Sofia. She also studied at the German school in Sofia a few years; married; had two sons.
EMPLOYMENT OR MILITARY RECORD: Unknown
PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION: Not a member of the Communist Party
REMARKS: A very good woman of excellent character, and quite cultured. Told me she did not like the situation in Bulgaria.

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BASIS OF INFORMATION: Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women.
DATE OF INFORMATION: January 1952 to June 1953

NAME: Tsola Nincheva DRAGOICHEVA (a.k.a. --- SONIA)
TITLE OR RANK: Minister in the Government
POSITION AND DUTIES: Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone; member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; member of the National Committee for the Defense of Peace; chairman of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women.
PERSONAL HISTORY: She finished a pedagogical school and taught for a time in several gymnasiums. She took active part in the clandestine work of the Bulgarian Communist Party. She had been condemned to death by the old regime but was reprieved because of her pregnancy. Before 9 September 1944 and for several years after, she was a member of the Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party but for some mistake she is now only a member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Madame DRAGOICHEVA was the first chairman of the Fatherland Front after 9 September 1944. She held many meetings, the purpose of which was to arouse the hatred of the masses, and to send to the courts a great number of persons accused of being fascist collaborators and of being responsible for the second national catastrophe. Thus, many completely innocent people and even people who had done everything they could to save Bulgaria from complete defeat were executed. In trying to save Bulgaria, they had also made the mistake of trying to save it from Soviet occupation, the disastrous consequences of which are well known today.
EMPLOYMENTS OR MILITARY RECORD: Unknown
PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION: See Personal History

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NAME: Tsola Nindewa DRAGOICHEVA (Cont'd)
REMARKS: Madame DRAGOICHEVA showed traces of youthful good looks. She had a difficult and not very good nature. She was ambitious and vain and had a disgusting attitude toward her co-workers. She was always ready to humiliate anyone, never thinking that others also had their self-respect. She was very temperamental, amiable one minute and irascible the next.

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BASIS OF INFORMATION: [REDACTED] the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women and during the WIDF Congress in Copenhagen.

DATE OF INFORMATION: 1952-1953

NAME: Tsvetana Staneva KIRANOVA **BIRTH DATE:** About 1903
TITLE OR RANK: Secretary **BIRTH PLACE:** Village of
POSITION AND DUTIES: Secretary of the Committee Torosse,
of Democratic Bulgarian District of
Women; member of a committee Lukovit
in the Central Committee HEIGHT: About 1.80 m.
of the Bulgarian Communist WEIGHT: 85 kg.
Party; member of the HAIR: Gray
Managing Council of the EYES: Light Brown
Central Cooperative Union (Tsentralen Kooperativen
Saiuz)

PERSONAL HISTORY: Madame KIRANOVA finished the Bulgarian Gymnasium; married; had three daughters. The eldest, Vessela, married, has one child; she finished law at the University of Sofia and now works at Burgass with her husband; Geni, the second daughter, is married and works as a translator in the Central Committee of the Dimitrov Youth Union; Raina, the third daughter, is a student of industrial chemistry at the University of Sofia. The husband of Madame KIRANOVA, Mr. Prokopi KIRANOV, is Professor of Economics at the University of Sofia.

EMPLOYMENT OR MILITARY RECORD: Unknown

PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION: Member of the Bulgarian Communist Party

REMARKS: Madame KIRANOVA took an active part in the clandestine struggle of the Bulgarian Communist Party. She was active in the Bulgarian Agricultural Party. Before 1944, she taught in several Bulgarian schools but was dismissed because of her radical views. She was also chairman of the Union of Families with Many Children. After 9 September 1944, she was secretary of the People's Union of Bulgarian Women. After the Union was absorbed by the Fatherland Front, she became, and is still, secretary of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women. Madame KIRANOVA had a rather difficult personality. She was very moody, but not a mean woman at heart. On one occasion, I overheard her conversation with Madame Magdalena BARAMOVA, the sister of Georgi DIMITROV. Of course, they didn't know I had overheard their conversation, but from it I received the impression that Madame KIRANOVA did not approve of the situation in Bulgaria. They discussed prices of commodities in Bulgaria and the true character of the price reduction.

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BASIS OF INFORMATION: [REDACTED] the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women.

DATE OF INFORMATION: January 1952 to June 1953

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NAME: Rada Todorova NOEVA
 TITLE OR RANK: Editor
 POSITION AND DUTIES: Editor-in-Chief of the publication, Zhenata Dnress (Today's Woman); member of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women; deputy to the National Bulgarian Assembly (Bulgarsko Narodno Sabranie); deputy to the Town Council of Workers' Deputies in Sofia.

BIRTH DATE: About 1903
 BIRTH PLACE: Unknown
 HEIGHT: About 1.67 m.
 WEIGHT: About 78 kg.
 HAIR: Gray
 EYES: Unknown

PERSONAL HISTORY: Finished at a Bulgarian gymnasium; widow; had one son.

EMPLOYMENT OR MILITARY RECORD: Unknown

PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION: Member of the Bulgarian Communist Party

REMARKS: She took a very active part in the clandestine struggle of the Bulgarian Communist Party. She spent 12 years in various prisons and it is said that she had an excellent attitude while imprisoned. After 9 September 1944, she became a minister in the government. She was later forced to resign because of her inhuman attitude toward an injured worker whom she met on the highway and refused to take in her car. She was a hard woman. She did not sympathize with the sufferings of others. She has been a delegate of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women to many international congresses and conferences organized by the WIDF. She was also a member of the Bulgarian delegation to Stalin's funeral.

BASIS OF INFORMATION: Slight personal acquaintance.

DATE OF INFORMATION: 1952 - 1953

NAME: Anastassia VULKOVA (a.k.a. -- TASHINA)
 TITLE OR RANK: People's Deputy
 POSITION AND DUTIES: Member of the Presidium of the Bulgarian National Assembly; Deputy to the National Assembly; Vice-chief of the Women's Section of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and associate member of the Board of Directors of the Committee of Democratic Bulgarian Women

BIRTH DATE: About 1915
 BIRTH PLACE: Unknown
 HEIGHT: About 1.75 m.
 WEIGHT: About 80 kg.
 HAIR: Chestnut
 EYES: Light brown

PERSONAL HISTORY: Finished at a Bulgarian gymnasium; married; had two sons.

EMPLOYMENT OR MILITARY RECORD: Unknown

PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL ORIENTATION: Member of the Bulgarian Communist Party

REMARKS: Madame VULKOVA took active part in the resistance against German occupation and in the struggle against the fascist regime in Bulgaria. Together with her husband she was a member of the resistance forces. She was quite sincere and cordial.

BASIS OF INFORMATION: Met her several times in Bulgaria [redacted]

DATE OF INFORMATION: 1953

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